

India, Burma

- Common names:** **Eng:** East Indian walnut, siris tree, woman's tongue; **Swah:** mkingu.
- Ecology:** This tree has been widely introduced into tropical and subtropical regions, becoming naturalized in many. Plantations have been established in South-East Asia, South America, the Caribbean and North and West Africa. In Tanzania it is planted at medium and low altitudes as a shade and amenity tree; common in Morogoro and Tanga. It grows best in wetter lowlands, e.g. the coast and Zanzibar. It prefers black cotton soil, as the roots are near the surface and require a high watertable, but it will also grow on acid, alkaline, and saline soils, 0-1,500 m.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture), flooring, poles, posts, medicine (flowers, bark, seed), fodder (leaves, flowers, pods), bee forage, shade, ornamental, mulch, nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, gum, soap (bark).
- Description:** Usually a deciduous tree 8-14 m but may reach 25 m. The trunk is often short and large branches support a heavy crown. **BARK:** grey-violet with rusty brown breathing pores, rough and fissured. **LEAVES:** compound **feathery** with 3-11 pairs of leaflets, **tip rounded, usually 2-3 cm**. Branchlets and leaves bear **distinctive soft golden hairs**. **FLOWERS:** numerous **cream-yellow-pink, half spherical, about 2-5 cm across**, stalked, lasting only a few days. **FRUIT:** **shiny yellow-brown pods in clusters, decorate the tree a long time**, each 20-30 cm long, bulging over a few seeds, the seeds and pods "chatter" in the wind.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing, cuttings, root suckers.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 7,000-12,000. Seed collection is done from the tree or on the ground and seeds are completely dried. Germination is good,
- treatment:** nicking improves germination; alternatively immerse in hot water, allow to cool and soak for 12 hours,
- storage:** seed can be stored for a long time if kept dry and insect free.
- Management:** Fast growing on good sites; lopping, pollarding, coppicing, pruning. Protect from browsing animals.
- Remarks:** Hard and heavy wood which has a good grain suitable for furniture. As in most Albizia, saponin in the bark can be used as soap. It is shallow rooted so should not be planted near houses.

